GIANT SPIDERS AND WALKING MACHINES
MECHANICAL ART WITH A SOCIAL MESSAGE

PLUS
51 days at sea in a rowboat
The lab halfway up Everest
In charge at a Boston ER

Charlie Crane: Canada’s Helen Keller
The Double Life of Doctor Lu
THE USEFUL CITIZEN
Charlie Crane lost his sight and hearing aged one, but through his fingertips developed an insatiable love of literature and learning.

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF DOCTOR LU
She practises medicine. She acts. She explores at the interface of stories and science.

THE LAST WORD: WITH TORRANCE COOMBS, BFA’05
Q: What or who makes you laugh out loud?
A: Spooky-eyed horses get me right in the funnies for some reason.
I’m not exactly the adventurous type. Like actor Torrance Coombs, BFA’05 (see page 52), I fear bears. Even a gentle hike through the BC countryside reduces me to a highly-strung, pepper-spray-clutching phobic (I fear bears). Even a gentle hike through the BC countryside, I’m not exactly the adventurous type. Like actor Torrance Coombs, at it from behind a nice window instead.

I’m a pasty-faced editor who prefers to adventure vicariously from the comfort of home – and more likely to die as a result of Vitamin D deficiency than a bear attack. Perhaps that’s why there’s no shortage of adventurous types to read about in this issue. We’re talking about UBC folks who have trekked halfway up Mount Everest, spent 51 days at sea in a rowboat, or lived for a week in a temporary toll free 800.883.3088

I despise Twitter, truthfully. I think it’s one of the worst things that’s been created in my lifetime, and so there’s no way I’m going to go on it. I dislike everything about it. I think that the notion of the immediate reaction to something without any reflection, the idea that you can give it and that you have to do it immediately, and everyone will respond immediately with no reflection, I think it’s the worst of our society, so no.

The two things that struck me the most were the incredible calming of the victims, even though they were obviously experiencing something human being should ever have to experience. Incredibly calm and able to help us take care of them.

And lastly... SURPRISE! In case you hadn’t noticed, Trek has had a bit of a facelift. We hope you enjoy the changes. Your feedback is welcome.
RE: “A RUNNING START”
TREK, Fall/Winter 2012
Clinical orthopaedics professor Shajiquan Pinhas has dramatically improved prospects for thousands of children born with clubfoot.

Great article. I volunteered with Hip Hip Hurray Orthopaedic Walk for many years. Thanks to Dr. Pinhas, children in Canada as well as other parts of the World will see a brighter future.

Dr. Pinhas is inspirational, caring and dedicated. It is great to hear about the Uganda Clubfoot project and where it’s at today.

Trish Silverstein-Lee, BSc 1983

I trained at the UBC Medical School and Dr. Pinhas was one of my instructors. He was humble and had a limp just like the article says, but I never knew any of the other things about him. Orthopaedics is my passion. I work as an emergency physician at the Whistler Health Care Centre and have the privilege of treating many acutely injured patients even though I never completed a specialty in Orthopaedic Surgery. I feel very blessed to have had Dr. Pinhas as one of my instructors.

Monika Rempel, MD 1992

Note: On March 15, 2012, we learned that GFAH will provide $4.3 million to Sustainable Clubfoot Care in Bangladesh, with Shajiquan Pinhas and Richard Mathias, a professor in the School of Population and Public Health, leading the project.

RE: “THE VINTAGE APPEAL”
TREK, Fall/Winter 2012
Wallace Chung donated an outstanding collection of Western Canadian art objects to UBC in 2006. In all probability, the most important and valuable buy was the Empress of Japan model of Canadian Pacific shipping memorabilia. Wallace was a boyhood friend of Dr. Charles (Chuck) Chung, who died in 1970. I later donated other items that Dr. Chung acquired in 1963. In fact, my father was quite active in conveying these items to Dr. Chung, and died only in 1970. I later donated one or two remaining items to the collection.

In addition to those mentioned in the article, the relics included a “shirt dock,” in which mariner’s charts were stored, the hinged top of which holds three round side-by-side-brass-frames ports through which chromatograms, critical to navigation, could be viewed. My father used to poke my wonder how many officers’ “waistcoats” had been worn out in the process, because the front edge of the top was concave from wear caused by pinning the chromatograms directly downward.

Thomas Dunbar, a Scottish-trained master cabinet maker, built for my father a drop-leaf table from Empress teakwood, still in my possession, and I also have a small glass-front wall cabinet, said to be from the chief officer’s cabin. I hope someday to arrange to add these items to the Chung collection.

I am extremely pleased that the result of my father’s initiative of over 80 years ago has found a permanent home owing to Dr. Chung’s life-long dedication to his passion.

John Edmond, BA 1964

Thank goodness for generous folks like Wallace Chung. I hope to see some of his gift to UBC, especially the model of the Empress of Asia, the last time I was in Vancouver. While attending UBC, I spent some summers working on tugs and will never forget the ships from all over the world that came in to Vancouver.

Michael A. Williams, BA 1964

RE: “THE LESS INJURED WERE OVERCOME WITH SURVIVOR’S GUILT.”
TREK, Fall/Winter 2012

Ron Walls, MD’79, led an emergency department response to the Boston Marathon bombings.

BY LAURA EGGERTSON

Dr. Ron Walls had rehearsed his hospital’s response to disaster 73 times since 2006. But when his cell and office phones began ringing just after 3:00 pm on April 15, the BC native discovered just how valuable those drills were.

Ten minutes earlier, eight seconds apart, two bombs had exploded at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. They killed three people and injured more than 175. Victims were headed to Brigham and Women’s Hospital, where Walls, former head of the Division of Emergency Medicine at UBC, is now chairman of the emergency department.

Seconds after he’d hung up and read a banner report of the bombing that slid across his cell phone, Walls, 58, heard the wailing, “I’ve never heard anything like it,” he says. “It was as if every vehicle with a siren turned on in the city. It was like a wave.”

The less injured were overcome with survivor’s guilt. They worried they had not been badly injured, and they had seen people’s limbs come off, they had seen amputees and victims who died. “Our patients thought, ‘Well, I’m OK,’ ” he says. “But very, very few were really OK. Quite a few of them were in shock, were in great pain and had to be sedated.”

A 24-year-old Alexa and her boyfriend had spent the Patriot’s Day holiday watching the marathon runners cross the finish line. “ Explosion at the finish line. We are OK but Boston is a mess now,” Alexa texted.

Walls was alarmed but relieved she had survived. Later, both his sons — a medical student in the city, the other in New York — sent reassuring messages of encouragement.

“My wife, Barbara, who is a nurse, also offered to suffer through her guilt,” he says. “At the peak of the incident, Walls had another five trauma teams governed and ready. He knew the hospital could become a secondary target, or another bomb could explode and send more casualties through the door.

During a city-wide drill in 2010 dubbed Operation Falcon, Walls had rehearsed that exact scenario: the explosion of a bomb during a mass gathering. On the day the drill became reality, Walls moved amidst the controlled chaos of medical personnel, paramedics and police officers. As he circulated, he reassured patients, “The most severely injured patients were very brush with death, as you can imagine.” But also, he says, “their friends were in shock. They were in great pain. They were in tears. They were in great pain.”

When the bombs exploded, medical personnel were already at the scene. From the moment the first bomb exploded, Walls’ first priority was to get the first responders, the police and firefighters, out of the smoking buildings. He did the same with medical personnel. “I think the local heroes that day did an incredible job,” he says. “We couldn’t have done anything differently.”

A second bomb exploded three minutes later.

“From where I was in the Emergency Department, the explosion was a ball of fire, and we could see the wave of blast that went in the right-hand direction,” he says. “The first wave went in, then a second wave came in from the left.”

By the time he got to the hospital, Walls had another five trauma teams governed and ready. “It was like the day of the Boston Marathon bombings.”

Dr. Ron Walls, who served for 32 years as director of medicine at the Boston Medical Center, was a key player in the hospital’s response to the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings. He is grappling with the memories of the nails and metal pellets his surgeons dug out of patients’ bodies. “We are always prepared to take care of people who have suffered from both bombing, a lokal strike or an earthquake. But this was deliberate, and it didn’t have to happen.”

All told, Brigham and Women’s treated 31 patients aged 16 to 65. Not a single patient who made it to hospital alive died, Walls reports at press time. He attributes that to the spectators who staunched wounds and paramedics who applied tourniquets at the bomb site, as well as to the emergency physicians, nurses, trauma surgeons, physicians’ assistants, housekeepers, porters and other hospital staff. “That was the power of teamwork — real teamwork that actually works,” he says. Walls’ take-home message is the responsibility every hospital owes the public to be ready by participating in drills, no matter how complicated or disruptive.

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As Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield floats through the tutelage of UBC psychology student, he is working to keep him connected to Earth. By Paul Weag, UBC

Eva Kuan is part of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) team helping Hadfield meet the psychological challenges of life in space. In a long-distance relationship like theirs, Kuan serves as Hadfield’s lifeline from home, thanks to the wonders of technology.

Kuan, who grew up with a passion for space and psychology, serves a variety of jobs designed to keep Hadfield happy and healthy. Her favorite part of the job is helping his family prepare care packages, which are blasted into space on unmanned supply ships. “Nothing is more surreal than touching something you know is going into space,” says Kuan, referring to the Canadian food specialties she’s helped send, including tubes of maple syrup and salmon.

To keep the astronaut abreast of planetary happenings, Kuan arranges regular video conferences with family, friends, celebrities and public figures. She also serves as Hadfield’s personal culture shopper, uploading news and his favorite podcasts, movies, music and TV shows to a personal website for his downtime.

Kuan works with a host of experts – doctors, psychologists, nutritionists – as part of CSA’s Operational Space Medicine team, which has spent years preparing for Hadfield’s mission. Their goal is to help him withstand the mental and physical challenges that come with five months in orbit: lack of privacy, confinement to small spaces, isolation from family and culture – evenmaps and TV shows.

Without training and support, these effects can hinder performance and eventually prepare aonaut for a mission. “We want Chris and his crew to feel connected,” says Kuan, who proudly sports her UBC t-shirt around Montreal and its suburbs, where CSA headquarters reside. “Care packages, movies and shows are important for fostering group relationships and crew bonding,” she says.

Kuan, who is researching crew cohesion under Leena Tom, a psychology professor and Performance Lead, says no one has truly been out of this world. “I grew up loving space and psychology, but wasn’t aware space psychology even existed,” she says, creating a new UBC Arts co-op program mentor, alama Jeanie Lau, for CSA. Kuan, who had worked at CSA, was able to provide Kuan with a through of the position and interview advice. “It showed me the power of university alumni and networking. Now I can work towards becoming the first Asian-Canadian space psychologist.”

As a young girl, Kuan idolized Canada’s first female astronaut Roberta Bondar and still finds old space articles and photos that her parents kept in Vancouver. “She symbolized how women can achieve anything and is a personal hero of mine,” she says.

Her relationship with psychology is equally personal. “I saw a psychologist when I was younger, and I was amazed there was someone whose job it was to make me happy. I wanted to be that person for other kids who felt that way too,” Kuan says.

Kuan will return to UBC in September, but is focusing on seeing the current mission through to Hadfield’s safe return to Earth, scheduled for May 14. Until then, she will enjoy the personal growth and camaraderie – and of course, the undeniable coolness of space. “I love getting emails from Chris,” she says. “Eva is my cooler when it comes from space.”

(Signed by the National Post in Ottawa, April 3)

publicaffairs.ubc.ca/2013/04/03/ earth-to-commander-chris/ Watch Hadfield talk about living in space. Sign up for weekly UBC Reports e-mails to receive the latest news, feature spots, expert Op-Eds and campus videos.
The odds may be smaller than winning the lottery, but Weihong Song’s selection to the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is anything but chance.

Song was one of only 39 invitees from 24 countries – chosen from more than 50 million eligible overseas Chinese expats – to participate in one of China’s most anticipated political gatherings in recent history. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” says Song, who is UBC’s Special Advisor to President Stephen Toope on China. “Simply amazing.”

Raised in the southwestern province of Sichuan, the UBC psychiatry professor and Canada Research Chair in Alzheimer’s Disease is one of the Chinese first nationals to go to medical school after the infamous Cultural Revolution – at age 14. He recently received China’s highest honour for foreign experts – the Friendship Award and was elected Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Science.

“He marked this achievement by saying, ‘I am so honored to have my name in the Chinese history books,’” says Song.

Joining the CPPCC, similar to the upper house ofPARLIAMENT in the western system, has approximately 1,200 members from various officially sanctioned political parties, ethnic, religious and other special interest groups. It was held last month in conjunction with the National People’s Congress, which saw the election of the country’s president and premier – an occasion that has only happened once before.

In the air and the message from the top – reduce pollution, minimize waste and close the gap between the rich and the poor – was loud and clear, says Song. “It felt like times have changed,” says Song, who emigrated from China 23 years ago.

“We have no elaborate flower arrangements, no lavish banquets, no alcohol served. We were given refillable water bottles to use for the duration of the conference.”

In March, Song was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. The recognition comes in of president Xi Jinping and premier Li Keqiang.

Since its official opening on September 18, UBC’s new Pharmaceutical Sciences Building (designed by Montreal’s Sauier & Perrotte Architects and Vancouver’s Hughes Condon Marler Architects) has picked up the following awards:

- Ontario Association of Architects 2013 Design Excellence Award
- Canadian Architect Award of Excellence
- Architizer People’s Choice Award
- Wallpaper*’s 2013 Best Lab Award

A crowd-pleasing piece of controlled drama

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UBC Alumni

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If I were a gambling man, those would be my numbers. Emboldened on the fronts of buses that carry more than half of all travellers to and from UBC, Vancouver now, they’re transported on a good deal closer to the sustainability jackpot. But what’s at stake now is bigger than UBC, and our lucky numbers can’t get us where we need to go on our own steam. Allow me to set the scene...

We’re standing on the UBC-Broadway corridor, waiting for the 99 L Line. Stretching from a commercial Drive westward to the University, the corridor is BC’s second-largest employment district, providing more jobs than the next eight largest town centres combined. That includes a quarter of Vancouver’s tech sector employment and 40 per cent of the city’s health care jobs. It’s Western Canada’s largest health precinct; millions of British Columbians visit VGH, UBC Hospitals and the BC Cancer Agency every year. And the economic potential here is enormous. Linking health care, life sciences, the technology industry, and UBC’s research enterprise, the corridor has the makings of a technology hub on par with Toronto’s MarS district, San Diego’s CoNNeCt, or London’s tech City. Already, BC’s tech industry is the second-fastest creator of new-sector jobs and growing more than twice as fast as the rest of our economy. Here comes the 99 L, better than 99 L. It’s not clever.

The size of two regular buses, it’s packed to capacity. The next one’s not stopping either. Or the next. We might be here a while.

The corridor is the busiest hub in North America. Every day, 100,000 people travel by it, transit, half of them from outside Vancouver. And every day, 2,000 of them are passed by full buses. That’s half a million plus a year. Factor in the additional 150,000 residents and workers expected over the next 50 years and, wow, you get the picture: an exploding hub of innovation and creativity with the capacity to attract talent, businesses, and venture capital to this region; home base for our technology industry; the health sciences hub for the whole province; and the main artery connecting the city to UBC’s $10 billion economic cloud. It’s already a potential powerhouse.

And with every stop, you see UBC’s future. The solution? Rail-based rapid transit running from Commercial and Broadway to UBC, connecting the Expo, Millennium, Canada, and Evergreen Lines to the corridor. Car traffic and bus capacity are maxed out now, and the streetcar some are suggesting wouldn’t be able to handle the growth that’s coming. On the day it opens, a UBC-Broadway line will have more riders than the Canada Line. With the future of BC’s economy top of mind, the decision is as clear as the need. The numbers speak for themselves, and whatever happens next, lots will have nothing to do with it.

The UBC-BROADWAY CORRIDOR is the KEY GEOGRAPHIC CONNECTION between Vancouver’s central business district, UBC, and regional business centres and communities in Metro Vancouver. The corridor already has many of the attributes of LEADING GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRES — proximity to a leading university, nearby businesses and financial services, a technically-skilled workforce and a high quality of life. However, it lacks a MISSING HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT. Source: KPMG study released by the City of Vancouver and UBC on February 28.

An analysis on UBC-Broadway Corridor transportation usage has found that 40 PER CENT of UBC’s 60,000 DAILY COMMUTERS start their trips in communities outside of Vancouver, underscoring the region’s need to improve the corridor’s STRUGGLING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE. Source: AMS Press Release, April 11, 2013.

The CORRIDOR is also the stuff of which the world’s fastest-growing metropolitan economies are made. More than the sum of its parts, the corridor is a piece of the puzzle on the international stage, the cornerstone of the east-west axis that will lead us to the future.

You may have read in the previous edition of The that your alumni association has been undergoing a strategic re-positioning so as to provide our alumni with the intellectual stimulation, the services and the support networks they need as they make their way in the world. Our goal is to strengthen alumni ties, make the association more open, visually inviting and relevant to a broad alumni audience. As a broad-based magazine, it needs to span all of our 290,000+ UBC alumni from those in their early 20s to those in their 70s and beyond!

In tandem with the 99 L re-design, our branded communications materials such as on the website, in brochures and emails have been completely re-designed under the new name of alumni UBC. In this fresh approach, alumni literally come first, representing the Alumni Association’s member-driven approach.

You will see the new look everywhere in our communications from this point on wards. We have also adopted a tagline to be used with the logo where appropriate: “It’s yours.” Of course this is a translation of the university’s Latin motto “Tuens est”, but for alumni it also means that this is your association. You don’t belong to the association, the association belongs to you.

And because alumni UBC is a self-governing alumni association alongside the university, it means your voice as an alumnus can and will be heard. In line with the new strategic vision and brand, we look forward to continuing the enhancement of communications, services and events to better help you on your journey through life as UBC alumni. It’s yours!

Christina Larson
BCom’82

All change

Judy Rogers, BBA’77
Chief UBC Alumni Association

When I learned of UBC President Stephen Toope’s decision to step down from his post, effective June 2014, I was both sorry to hear it and proud to think of all that has been accomplished under his presidency. UBC is a leading and dedicated leader in research and academic programs, among the best in the world of post-secondary education. Over the past few years of his tenure, the stature and influence of alumni has grown on campus. And alumni will be on hand to help choose a new president over the coming months, with two seats on the search committee reserved for representatives of alumni UBC, your association.

UBC is also hiring a chancellor. By next summer, Sarah Morgan-Silverst, BComm’82, will have completed two stellar terms in the role. She is a tireless champion for the university and an advocate, too, for the importance of a long-term commitment to the active engagement of alumni. In fact the Alumni Association board chair is charged with leading the committee that identifies and submits a nominee for chancellor. In consultation with the Council of Senates – to the Board of Governors, UBC’s new president and chancellor will need stamina, resolve and vision to continue the sterling work of their predecessors.

Next year’s incumbents can rest assured that alumni UBC will continue to provide an important source of wise and balanced advice and support, especially with regard to the university’s biggest constituent group. Our board’s work over the past years has been geared toward exactly that. This all bodes very well for the future of our university and its place in our lives.

YOU’RE INVITED! UBC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It’s all about alumni making change in the world. Come learn about the impact your Alumni Association has and is having and listen to a conversation between Professor Stephen Toope and two alumni who have made an impact in the community. If you’re not attending AGM 101 there will be a special AGM 101 seminar to help you make the most of your experience.

Thursday, September 26, 2013, at the Marriott Pinnacle Hotel, 1128 W Hastings St, Vancouver.

4:00 – 5:00 – Pre-event reception on AGM 101
5:30 – 5:45 – AGM Pre-reception
5:45 – 6:45 – AGM

RSVP details will be on our website soon. For information, please contact Christina Larson at christina.larson@ubc.ca or 604-822-9977.
FINDING BALANCE IN A 24/7 WORKPLACE

With the rise of mobile technologies, there’s an increasing expectation for employees to be connected 24/7. How do you make time for yourself, your relationships and your family while keeping your career moving forward?

Following are five of many tips the audience picked up at an event held on March 26.

1. Learn to say “No.” You can’t do everything, so figure out your priorities for this stage of your life and base your decisions on whether they make you happy.

2. Communicate this to your friends and colleagues. They’ll probably understand.

3. Make time for yourself. Take some time for yourself. The fact that you don’t have a morning meeting or an afternoon appointment doesn’t mean you’re free to make other commitments.

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**CHESTY now 95 per cent in BC:** Between 2000 and 2010, according to a study lead by Professor Carolyn Gray of UBC, School of Population and Public Health, BC’s rank among the world’s top universities in the 2013 Times Higher Education Reputation Rankings, one of only six institutions to make the top 10 list.

**UNC’s rank among the world’s top universities in the 2013 Times Higher Education Reputation Rankings, one of only six institutions to make the top 10 list:**

**25%**

Cheasty now 95 per cent in BC. Between 2000 and 2010, according to a study lead by Professor Carolyn Gray of UBC, School of Population and Public Health.

In February UBC women’s volleyball won 25 games in a row to clinch the CIS championship title for the 5th year straight.

**31st**

Per rise awarded to UBC female faculty members after 2007 and 2009 studies out of UBC’s Equity of 86% both indicated that women were being paid less than male faculty members.

**03:00:**

Time allowed for UBC good students to explain their thesis to a non-specialist audience during the 5th Annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. The event allows students to explain their research in three minutes, using only one slide for each presentation.

When Martin Berka sat down for an interview with a New Zealand radio station in December 2011, he didn’t have to go far to find a chair. He was aboard a 10.5-metre rowboat in the middle of the Tasman Sea.

The interview, conducted over satellite radio, was the first substantial contact he’d had with the outside world since setting off from Sydney Harbour on the 18th of December, and he was excited to report good weather.

“The forecast for the next few days looks quite good,” he told the show’s host. “Hopefully we don’t have to make any more stopovers with the weather beating us down, as we had in the first two weeks.”

“Stopovers” was a nice way of putting it. The journey, a four-man adventure, was set to last a minimum of three years. The goal was to raise funds to link the Borneo reef to an educational campaign in New Zealand schools, allowing each school to “own” a single coral and monitor its growth through a web-based interface.

Martin Berka, 30, experienced longings during a 51-day row across the Tasman Sea.

**BY CHRIS CANNON**

Suggested reading: Getting Things Done by David Allen

[Event Podcast](http://trekmagazine.alumni.ubc.ca)
THE TEAM PLANNED TO ROW FROM THE HARBOUR BRIDGE IN SYDNEY TO THE HARBOUR BRIDGE IN AUCKLAND – A DISTANCE OF 2,500 KILOMETRES

Sydney, AUSTRALIA
Departed: November 27, 2011

Auckland, NEW ZEALAND
Arrived: January 20, 2012


A month on the open ocean coupled with a drastically altered sleep schedule is a recipe for surrealism.

Berka had lost thirteen kilograms during the voyage, confirming his theory that getting fat before you go is a good thing. "I would recommend that everyone who wants to do this first checks with other people, because you are very alone in the middle of the sea," he says. "But in fact, the hardest part, by far, was the mental part. The helplessness of the trip. It was also not easy to stay relaxed as required (try injecting yourself in the thigh with a four-centimetre needle, timing yourself when you don’t have to inject yourself in the foot, which had grown to the size of a tennis ball. Once a day he had to inject himself in the thigh with a four-centimetre needle, timing yourself when you don’t have to inject yourself in the foot, which had grown to the size of a tennis ball."

A month at sea can be quite isolating if you have friends, family and work to think about. But it can also be quite relaxing and restful. The team covered about 5,500 km during their trip, which included a lot of different weather conditions. At times, the water was calm and the stars were visible. At other times, the water was choppy and the waves were high. The team had to adapt to these changes and remain flexible in order to continue their journey.

Daytime activities included rowing, reading, and using their devices for communication. They also had to inject themselves in the thigh with a four-centimetre needle, timing themselves when they don’t have to inject themselves in the foot, which had grown to the size of a tennis ball. Once a day they had to inject themselves in the thigh with a four-centimetre needle, timing themselves when they don’t have to inject themselves in the foot, which had grown to the size of a tennis ball.

Some reasons to be concerned at the loss of coral reefs around the world:

- The average number of lives saved per coastal village is 5,880 per year.
- The proportion of coral reefs that have been degraded or destroyed globally is 30%.
- The number of marine reserves in the world is 1,171.
- The proportion of the world’s fisheries yields that come from water less than 200 m deep is 1.72.
- The number of threatened species that depend on coral reefs for their survival is 196.
- The number of marine protected areas established on Danajon Bank is 234,950 sq hectares.
- The length of Danajon Bank is 214 km.
- The number of people who live near coral reefs and depend on them for food, livelihoods, and well-being is 500,000.

For more information about the team, please visit: www.teamgallagher.co.nz

PROTECTING CORAL REEFS

Project Seahorse is a marine conservation organization co-founded and directed by UCC’s Amanda Vincent. One of its current projects is a collaboration with the International League of Conservation Photographers to raise awareness of the plight of the Danajon Bank coral reef in the Philippines.

Danajon Bank is one of only 2% of barrier coral reefs in the world, and one of the most important marine ecosystems in the entire Pacific Ocean. Scientists found all over the Pacific are thought to have first identified these unique reefs. Unfortunately, the reef faces many threats including damage from illegal fishing practices (fishing with explosives, for example), as well as overdevelopment, pollution, and climate change. It is home to at least 200 threatened animals, such as the endangered Turtles and whales.

The photographs from the expedition will be shared in a series of educational photo exhibits at aquariums in Chicago, London, Hong Kong, Manila, and other select cities. The exhibit will include a powerful photographic essay to help conservationists in the Philippines and around the world push for increased protections.

Danajon Bank - Photo taken in 2004 in Silver Point, Grand Bahama Island. Photo: Hing Nga Goh/Dylan Seehafer of the World
Imagine this: a three-ton steel exoskeleton crouching in the Nevada desert like a behemoth rabbit without a head. It rises and begins loping across the sand. With each stride, the creature covers four-and-a-half metres and gains speed until it is moving as fast as a man at full sprint.

Strapped inside the exoskeleton, dwarfed by his massive quadrupedal creation, is Jonathan Tippett, BASc’99. As he moves his arms, the creature’s two outside legs lunge forward. When he kicks his legs, the two inside legs move. As Tippett pushes his body with more force, the creature responds, magnifying each human motion into a wild, mechanical romping gallop perfectly suited to the scale of the Black Rock Desert, a 2,600 square-kilometre expanse. At least this is Tippett’s fantasy. He hopes to finish and unveil his creature – better described as a wearable walking machine called Prosthesis – at the Burning Man festival in Black Rock City in 2014.

Black Rock City is a horseshoe-shaped city that springs up every August for just one week in the dry lake bed of the Black Rock Desert in northern Nevada, about 175 kilometres north of Reno. The temporary city – the fifth largest in Nevada for the week it exists – is home to the Burning Man festival, a wild, hallucinatory art and music bacchanal dedicated to radical self-expression as well as radical communal participation. Burning Man is many things. It is a place that tests self-sufficiency requiring participants.
prosthesis is one several projects currently underway in the laboratory of eatART, a radical art collective based in Vancouver. The acronym stands for Energy Awareness Through ART, and their mandate is simple: to foster large-scale technically-sophisticated art that raises questions about the social and environmental impact of energy use. Yet eatART is anything but predictable. Take, for example, the mechanical low art at its origins: in 2007 the Mondo Spider, a 725-kilogram walking spider, and Daisy, a three-and-a-half ton solar-power bicycle fell in love at Burning Man and begat eatART. In other words, Tippett, Charlie Brinson, Leigh Christie and Ryan Johnston (co-creators of Mondo Spider) met Rob Cunningham (carstaker of Daisy) through their shared love of mechanical art and Burning Man. But their sense of wild adventure had a purpose: they wanted to start a charitable organization that would promote energy awareness but would not necessarily look to traditional implementations of new technology or be conventional in its ways of reaching the public. “We wanted to capture audiences that would otherwise pass by if you said ‘sustainability.’” Instead, they knew they would earn international attention through art — huge-scale, highly-engineered mechanical art.

Located on the Great Northern Way Campus, nestled between the Centre for Digital Media and the train tracks, the eatART lab is described by the artists as an “impossible dream factory,” and is filled with impossibly large mechanical creations. To get into the lab, you have to squeeze by Mondo Spider, about the size of a small car, which lurks outside the main doors in the back corner on a raised platform as a section of Brinson’s latest project, Titanoboa, a 15-metre electro-mechanical reincarnation of a monstrous primordial snake that slithers with an eerie verisimilitude. (The snake was rendered almost 62 million years ago by climate change.) In the middle of the space is the only modest-sized project in the lab, glides by bicycle retrofitted with hub-motors and capable of generating enough electricity to power a laptop. The Alpha Leg, a prototype of one of Prosthesis’s four legs, dominates an entire side of the lab, and it is only two thirds of the planned size.

The artists who work in the lab are mostly engineers with the highly-sophisticated technical knowledge required to design, model, and build massive robotics. Tippett graduated from UBC with a mechanical engineering degree in 1999. Brinson has a bachelor’s in engineering physics (2004) and a master’s in mechanical engineering (2006), both from UBC. For Tippett, large moving machinery lends itself to a richer discussion about energy use than, say, a laser lightshow. “Once you get into large, heavy moving parts, you have the inevitable exchange of energy — kinetic energy, stored energy, electrical energy, hydraulic energy, pneumatic energy. With large things moving, you also have issues of efficiency, which you wouldn’t get with a lightshow. Lightshows are dynamic and engaging but they don’t have as many forms of energy to play with as physical systems.” Absurdly large moving parts catch the eye and easily spark conversation about energy awareness and our relationships with technology, and eatART members are involved in educational outreach and mentorship. In 2009, Tippett began sponsoring capstone programs with UBC’s mechanical engineering and engineering physics programs. Brinson also has teams of engineering students working on various aspects of Titanoboa. “Our involvement with students at UBC and SFU has become a hugely important part of the projects,” he says. “Students get involved with all parts of the process. In fact a couple of the team’s core members came as students and then continued on.” Mondo Spider and Titanoboa also make regular appearances at festivals and science events geared towards getting kids excited about science and engineering. But for all the technology and energy education involved, eatART has the aura of wild adventure, a whiff of Mad Hatter mechanical genius that even took the organizers of Burning Man by surprise when Mondo Spider first scuttled across the sand: Burning Man has long been a showcase for absurdly large-scale mobile art. But unlike most of the art cars that roam the playa, the spider is not simply art mounted on a pre-existing vehicle. The eight-legged electro-mechanical beast is its own creature. The organizers were unsure whether to categorize it as an art installation or mutant vehicle — each gets a separate license to exist on the playa. “It was a real feather in our cap to confuse the organizers of Burning Man,” Tippett recalls. “It’s a pretty big achievement to bring something there that they haven’t seen before.”

The artist who work in the lab are mostly engineers with the highly-sophisticated technical knowledge required to design, model, and build massive robotic.
A group of international researchers planned to collaborate on experiments investigating the effects of oxygen deprivation. But they’d have to get to the laboratory first – located more than 5,000 metres above sea level.

**BY MARCIE GOOD, BA’95**

Headaches, nausea, difficulty sleeping, and laboured breathing are just a few of the symptoms Nia Lewis experienced during a research trip in The Himalayas last year. But physical discomfort aside, the 27-year-old UBC Okanagan researcher says the trip was a welcome break from her usual office-bound work.

“You can sit at a desk and read textbooks and journal articles to learn what happens in the body,” says the post-doctoral fellow, who was in Nepal to study the effects of oxygen deprivation on blood flow through the brain and vital organs. “I really felt the changes and knew what was happening and why. It was a good learning tool for me.”

Ainslie is Canada Research Chair in Cerebrovascular Function in Health and Disease and is based in the School of Health and Exercise Sciences. This was his seventh trip to the Himalayas, and he has built up a network of local people who contribute to the research. He calls this trip an example of “high-risk, high-reward science” — the costs reached about $200,000, and some of the experiments involved “hazardous equipment” and the potential for failure.

The group then flew from Kathmandu to Lukla. The short runway heads uphill straight towards the mountain. Old and unregulated aircraft and unpredictable weather make it one of the unsafest flights in the world. The group experienced two cancellations before they took off and were airborne just before the one-way landings. “Basically you just hope for the best,” says Lewis, recalling the landing. “It’s a sheer drop. We were pretty nervous.”

The Nepalese standard diet is rice and lentils, but they would offer guests a variety of foods: porridge or noodles at breakfast, pasta or rice for lunch. The higher the group climbed on the eight-day trek, the harder it became. The terrain started out as lush, green and tropical, and quickly became very rocky. They frequently crossed small narrow bridges, which bounced and swung hundreds of metres above valleys. Lewis was feeling short of breath, threatening, but are similar to those experienced by people suffering from sleep apnea, chronic heart and respiratory illnesses, and strokes. The scientists hope to adapt their experiment results for further clinical studies with the goal of devising new methods of prevention and treatment.

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Lewis found the last day of the trek the most difficult. “We started with a big climb and very rocky. You’re kind of concentrating on where you’re stepping and it’s loose gravel, and I fell down quite a few times. It was a few steps, stop, catch your breath,” she recalls.
She kept an eye on her heart rate monitor, which reached 170 beats per minute. “My maximum heart rate would be approximately 190, so I was really happy with my performance.”

The Pyramid laboratory is located more than halfway up the Khumbu Valley near Mount Everest base camp. It is surrounded by stunning mountains and glaciers, and daytime temperatures hover around zero. A brick building nearby was the sleeping quarters. The Pyramid Laboratory is located more than halfway up the Khumbu Valley near Mount Everest base camp. It is surrounded by stunning mountains and glaciers, and daytime temperatures hover around zero. A brick building nearby was the sleeping quarters.

But once they arrived, there was no time to rest or enjoy the scenery. The Pyramid laboratory was a remote location presented several challenges. Their blood gas analyzer had failed, and they had to transport all the sample vials back to Canada. Lewis was research coordinator, managing the complex logistics of many studies over their three-week stay. The laboratory had solar panels for all electricity and heat, and there was sometimes internet access, but the remote location presented several challenges. Their blood gas analyzer had failed, and they had to transport all the sample vials back to Canada.

Lewis found the trip down the mountain much easier than going up, although harder on the knees. “You can just feel a difference in the air and you can feel it’s less challenging,” she says. “It’s quite strange; we were all high off oxygen.” One more complication was that planes weren’t flying from Lukla to Kathmandu due to the weather. Ainslie was able to find helicopters to take them instead.

Some of the studies – such as a seven-hour process involving sampling blood from the subjects’ veins every half hour and from the brain, followed by a maximum exercise test – were physically taxing. But Ainslie was very pleased with the outcomes. “It was entirely successful in that normally we plan 12-15 experiments, hoping that even if half of them work out we get some great data. On this trip everything worked out.”

Families of Sherpas that he has known for a decade participated in several studies, and members of the team trained one 26-year-old guide called Nema to help collect data. The researchers developed friendships with many of the locals, and maintained birds through Facebook. One study tested children born at altitude but now living in Kathmandu, to see how lack of oxygen affects the development of the lungs and heart. Ainslie has planned another research trip, and hopes also to bring Nepalese subjects to Canada to test them at sea level. “The downside to commercialism in all these countries is that Sherpas [are leaving their high-altitude homes] because they make more money working in construction in Japan,” he says. “So I really think that if we don’t do these experiments in the next decade then we lose the opportunity to look at natural selection and adaptation at high altitude.”

Fully recovering from the trip took Lewis a month. She felt disoriented – the effect of oxygen deprivation – and once got stuck counting to ten. “Now I look back on it and go, ‘Oh my gosh I can’t believe I did that. That was crazy!’” She says. “My body took a lot of stress. It was hard work, but really worth it.”

ALTIMETRIC COMPARISON CHART

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THE DOUBLE LIFE OF DOCTOR YVETTE LU

They say medicine is as much an art as a science. Yvette Lu, MD’04, is a family physician who uses her writing and acting skills to teach medical students the importance of listening and compassion.

BY DIANE HAYNES, BA'99

MD OR IMBD?

Yvette’s Story

Google “Dr. Yvette Lu British Columbia” and in 0.39 seconds you’ll get her family practice, her RateMDs.com ratings, LinkedIn profile, Wikipedia entry, personal website, and of course her Internet Movie Database (IMDb) profile. Wish... what?

Three days a week, her side-manned Dr. Lu, family physician in the Surrey-based practice she shares with her mom. Diminutive and soft-spoken, Lu exudes a gentleness and warmth that any patient would respond to, and as attentive and she is articulate. But ask about that “interest in acting and performance” listed on her CV below her medical experience and awards, and she’ll transform before your eyes. She has superseded you see.

Actor, director, producer, composer…Lu’s artistic accomplishments are as extensive as her medical ones. Food for the Gods (Vancouver Asian Film Festival and Alive and Kicking (The Enemy Film Festival award winner) and as extensive as her medical ones.

Respond to, and is as attentive and she is articulate. But ask about that soft-spoken, Lu exudes a gentleness and warmth that any patient would bring to my patients.” She adds that “studies have shown a marked decrease in their level of stress, pain and anxiety.”

Will the real yvette lu please stand up?

A doctor.

(Far Enemy Film Festival award winner)

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FIFTY PER CENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN POPULATION IS DEALING WITH AT LEAST ONE CHRONIC ILLNESS.

The Doctor’s Story

On average, physicians interrupt patients within eighteen seconds of when they begin telling their story.” So writes Jerome Groopman in How Doctors Think, the book Yvette Lu is reading at the time of her conversation with Thernstrom. Thernstrom says, “Medical students are so flooded by feelings they have some time to examine or process that a significant proportion are thought to be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.”

What narrative medicine allows is that opportunity for examination and processing. Medical schools that have incorporated its techniques into their curricula might offer opportunities for students to analyze literature, to write a book about a patient and his illness over the course of a year; or to keep “parallel charts,” records of their own feelings about and responses to their patients. It is, as Jerome Groopman at Harvard says, the responsibility of medical schools to develop in young physicians “the ability to bear their patients’ suffering.”

WHEN HAS IT BEEN HARD?

The Patient’s Story

“While I was ill, I didn’t have the luxury of time. I had to make decisions on my own, so people are saying that’s the hard thing. I don’t have the luxury of time.”

Dr. Rita Charon is a physician, author, and literary scholar, and the founder and executive director of the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University. She coined the term narrative medicine in 2001 and defines it as “medicine practiced by someone who knows what to do with stories.”

Still in its infancy, narrative medicine boasts few hard studies that demonstrate its efficacy as either a diagnostic or healing tool. But there is an implicit understanding that it is offering something necessary: over 50 per cent of North American medical schools now include some form of narrative medicine training in their curricula.

UCB introduces medical students to narrative medicine in their first year by inviting Lu to speak to the Doctor, Patient and Society class. Lu steps up to the podium, no notes in her hands, no lecture to give, and begins to perform Stories from the Closet.

TO BEAR THEIR PATIENTS’ SUFFERING

The Student’s Story

“It was amazing,” says Alvin Ip of Lu’s performance. “It is a first-year medical student at UBC who volunteers with the Richmond Centre for Disability. “At the end, I felt like I knew someone inside and out... her feelings, ideas, needs, and expectations. [It] reminded me of how important it is to not only treat the disease, but also comfort... the patient.”

Fellow first year Michelle Chiu agrees. A volunteer with Canuck Place Children’s Hospice, Chiu says, “Yvette’s play gave us a glimpse into the impact of chronic illness” and provides much-needed insights that I will bring to your patients.” She adds that “students have shown a marked decrease in empathy as students progress [in their training]. I believe that [narrative medicine] techniques are effective in countering this.”

A quick internet search for “medical student empathy decline” produces 210,000 results. Chiu isn’t kidding. Explanations include medical schools’ emphasis on clinical detachment and on technology; a lack of empathetic role models; an encouragement of elitism; and institutional focus on research over teaching.

And then there’s the curriculum itself. At UBC, it includes 12 medicine-based courses in the first two years as well as five practice-focused courses each year; 10 specialty rotations in third year; and a year of clinical practice. Students who find stress more prohibitive than motivating may shut down emotionally in order to cope.

In a 2004 New York Times article entitled “The Writing Cure,” Melanie Theriault says, “Medical students are so floored by feelings they have no time to examine or process that a significant proportion are thought to be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.”

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* From Stories from the Closet (copyright Yvette Lu)

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* From Stories from the Closet (copyright Yvette Lu)

Listen to Yvette reading an excerpt from her play.

Fifty per cent of the North American population is dealing with at least one chronic illness.
Honorary event chair, the rt. Hon. John N. Turner, PC, CC, QC, BA '49, LLD '94, cordially invites you to the seventh annual Great Trekker Luncheon in Toronto, featuring Barbara Anderson, BSc '78, Chief Financial Officer Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games Organizing Committee. What does it take to deliver a major event on time and on budget? How do we prepare our cities for such large international gatherings? What are the anticipated social, cultural and economic benefits for Toronto? What are the major challenges being faced? Join us as she provides insight into this exciting time leading up to Toronto 2015.

EVENTS

UBC ALUMNI WEEKEND 2013

With activities from tours of the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery to face painting for kids (and every thing in between), UBC Alumni Weekend offers a glimpse at the many sides of UBC. Come experience Vancouver’s most eclectic and energizing day.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

alumni.ubc.ca/alumniweekend

UBC ALUMNI EVENT AT THE CALGARY STAMPEDE

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

BERNIE RIEDEL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 17, 2013

CLASS OF 1973 REUNION

Saturday, September 21, 2013

CLASS OF 1988 REUNION

Saturday, October 4, 2013

For more information contact Caely-Ann McNabb at caely-ann.mcnabb@ubc.ca or 604-827-1411.
A ten-year-old boy called Charlie – regarded by Alexander Graham Bell as the most wonderful boy in the world – went on to become the first deafblind person to study at a Canadian university.

A blind person can study by listening, a deaf person by seeing, but what of the person who is both deaf and blind? This is the story of Charles Allen Crane, Canada’s Helen Keller.

The world thought it was ready for Charles when he was born in Toronto on April 10, 1906. His six older brothers and sisters had awaited his arrival with anxious enthusiasm. Charlie, as they called him, was a healthy, good-natured baby who loved every bit of attention his family lavished on him. He reached all the visual milestones on schedule – cooing and babbling, smiling, crawling, grinning – until he was nine months old and contracted cerebrospinal meningitis, a vicious disease that can kill within hours.

Charlie survived, but the disease had ravaged his optic and auditory nerves. His distraught parents, Minnie and William, made the rounds of the country’s best doctors, but no one could help. In desperation, they booked passage on a ship to England, where they took Charlie to the country’s top specialists but, in late January 1908, they returned to Canada, resigned to the awful reality: their beloved little boy would never again see or hear.

Children like Charlie, who acquire this double disability prior to the age of two, are known as “congenitally deafblind.” Their experience of the world has more in common with that of children born deafblind, than with those who become deafblind at a later age. They often develop a heightened sense of touch to help navigate the world around them. If you shook hands with Charlie once, he’d recognize you immediately the next time you gave him your hand, even years later. He could identify the colour of someone’s hair by its texture, though he lacked the concept of colour as sighted people know it. “He was so smart,” says his niece, Iris Lees, “you couldn’t fool him with anything.” Iris remembers how, as an adult, he’d walk about in her yard feeling the plants with his hands and know exactly which species they were.

Charlie had a talent for communicating. With his mother’s help, he developed a rudimentary sign language. Only the family understood it, but it was enough to get by. When he was five, the family moved to Vancouver. Minnie and William consulted BC’s Superintendent of Education, Dr. Robinson, who put them in touch with the School for the Deaf in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The School mailed Minnie and William a copy of their annual report, which featured a depiction of the manual alphabet. The family immediately began spelling their names into his hand, including that of Charlie’s little brother, Tom, their brown cat, Bill, and their grey dog, Prince, followed by familiar household items. Charlie loved it.

Children develop language skills easily, but Charlie wasn’t being exposed to the underlying nuances of everyday spoken language. When the boy was finally admitted to the Haifax School for the Deaf, just after his 10th birthday, Principal James Fearon reported that he had, “strictly speaking, no language.” That quickly changed when Charlie began classes, becoming, according to Fearon, one of the fastest learners the school had ever known. An article written later that year and published in a Halifax newspaper boasted that “Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, perhaps the greatest authority today on the education of the deaf, regards Charlie Crane as the most wonderful boy in the world.” Many people, including Bell, compared Charlie with Helen Keller.

A hardy, energetic boy, strong and tall for his age, Charlie thrived at the Halifax school and showed a keen sense of humour. “If the suspects you are fooling him,” Fearon said, “up, like a flash, goes his hand to your throat to find out whether or not you are laughing.” Charlie pictured in The Ubyssey (January 29, 1932).

By then, Charlie had learned to use both a manual typewriter and a Brailler. His typing speed wasn’t remarkable, but his accuracy would become legendary. Even more amazing, he had learned to speak, in a clear, pleasant voice. He pronounced all the sounds of the English language correctly, with the exception of “dzh” (J). With one hand, he’d feel his teacher’s throat the muscle action he had observed. Once Charlie could say the word properly, he would be taught its meaning. Charlie returned to Vancouver in 1922 to begin secondary school at the British Columbia School for the Deaf and the Blind on Jericho Hill. His family moved to
Caribou so, once again, Charlie was a full-time boarder. He wasn’t much good at math, but compensated by excelling in history, literature, French, Latin and botany. Charlie yearned for a university education. In the introduction to her 1926 book, The Zone, Annie Dalton quotes Charlie’s words to a friend: “You ask me what is my great ambition? I have been very fortunate so far in receiving a fair education, but I dread to think of being checked in my desire for more advanced studies. My hope is... to take up the University course in British Columbia... and duly receive my degree in arts... After that, I should like to become a useful citizen.”

Charlie’s personal library at this time consisted of just four titles, all in Braille: Lamb’s Tales from Shakespeare, Treasure Island, The Book of Poems, and Lorna Doone. In 1927, he began acquiring quantities of Braille books from publishing houses in England, Scotland and the US. He became a voracious reader and collected English classics, all the classics available in Braille that had been translated into English from Greek and Latin, historical works, dictionaries, and books about botany and medicine. He personally transcribed into Braille dozens of volumes, most in English and at least one in Latin, in a wide variety of subjects. This he did with the assistance of a reader, who would spell the printed book into his hand, letter by letter. Charlie would patiently type the book on his Braille typewriter, and review the sheets professionally bound. He wrote a detailed description of his library for the June, 1962, New Freespace, closing with, “Vita sine litteris mors est,” meaning, “Life without literature is death.”

UBC accepted Charlie into first-year arts when he graduated from high school in 1931, and the Government of BC awarded him a scholarship towards fees and expenses. An “intervener” was hired, to spell out lectures, and guide him around campus. The first deafblind student to study at a Canadian university, Charlie embraced UBC, signing up for English literature, English composition, Greek history, zoology, and Latin. He took to smoking a pipe, and loved a good game of chess. He joined the classics club and the wrestling club, and exercised fearlessly on the rings and bars at the gym. Several Odyssey articles that semester boasted about Charlie, teasing his knowledge of classical literature and history, and his “courage, sportsmanship and Varsity spirit.” Columnist Ronald Grantham described him as one of UBC’s keest nee students. “His handicap is very severe,” wrote Grantham, “but, like Helen Keller, he has learned to speak – and he possesses a very active mind... His industry and intense interest will ensure him academic success.”

But the world of academia wasn’t ready for Charlie. The university wasn’t equipped to accommodate a person with his degree of disability, and one year was all UBC could give him. Completing a degree would have meant hiring a team of interveners to spell out the lectures - not just in class but for hours afterwards, because manual spelling took so much longer than speech. In addition, there was no mechanism to allow for extra examination time. It would have taken hours for an intervener to spell out the exam questions to Charlie, and many hours for him to spell back his responses and for the intervener to write them down.

This was the fate he had dreaded, yet he accepted it with grace. In an article published in October 1931 in The Province he wrote, “I do not intend to acquire a full college education, but my main reason for taking a term at the university is that I am anxious to befit myself for a profitable career, whereby I would not only earn a good salary, but also be of assistance to others... I would come out of the University wiser, but a poorer man, and he was certainly in his element in any social situation. But a poignant letter to the editor, which appeared in The Province on December 12, 1949, showed another side of things: “Please note, dear readers, that this is from a man who, though in good health, is both deaf and blind. Because of my double handicap, I am left practically alone - in fact, extremely lonely... If there is anyone among you who will make my acquaintance, why not come and see me any time?... Charlie Allen Crane, 2318 Macdonald St, Vancouver.”

In 1951, Charlie’s mother passed away. It would seem he received an inheritance, because that year he stopped working at the CNIB. He spent summers in Saskatchewan with a sister, Hamlet, and occasionally travelled to England, where he enjoyed visiting people in the National Deafblind League. His niece, Iris, whom he loved to visit, had moved away. He had one close friend. Aside from that, his books were his entire world. By the time Charlie passed away in 1965, he had amassed what was believed to be the largest personal Braille library in the world: an estimated 10,700 volumes. In 1967, in accordance with his will, this library was donated to UBC, forming the nucleus of Access & Diversity’s Crane Library. Paul Thiele, who is visually impaired, was a doctoral student at UBC when he founded the Crane Library with his new bride, Judy - Canada’s first blind person to graduate in Literary Science. He also developed the Crane Production Facility, where an army of volunteers creates a new talking book every three weeks. In addition to the library and recording studios, the Crane features a reading room, a lounge, and a lab with e-text readers, which can scan and read aloud textbooks and assignments to students with disabilities. As part of UBC’s Access & Diversity service, the Crane provides textbooks in all subjects, audio, large print and e-text formats to all qualifying students at UBC, and at educational institutions elsewhere in Canada and in many other countries through inter-library loan.

Charles Crane didn’t achieve his “great ambition” to finish university (it would be another 40 years before a deafblind person graduated from a Canadian university) and he didn’t become, in his lifetime, what most
people might consider “a useful citizen.” Yet his legacy is invaluable to visually impaired university students at UBC and around the world.

Not long before he passed away, Charlie took a two-week vacation at the CNIB Lodge on Bowen Island. Paul Thiele, the recreation director at the lodge, took a group of blind vacationers on a nature walk, including Charlie who, by then, had lost his ability to speak from lack of practice. Through his intervener, Charlie knew that his companions were putting their arms around some trees to get a sense of their size. He asked what kind of trees they were, and Thiele made a guess. “Maples,” he said. Charlie put his arms around one of the trees, and the group resumed their walk. When they returned to the lodge, Charlie sent Thiele a beautifully typed note, thanking him profusely for the outing, then adding: “From the depth and texture of the bark and its moisture and the size of the leaves, I deduce that the tree couldn’t have been a maple. I assume it was a Platanus acerifoli (London plane tree).”

“And I knew then that I’d been told, nicely, not to make things up,” says Thiele. “I’d been put in my place by a great man.”

This machine went everywhere with Charlie. Known as a Hall Braille writer, or “brailler” for short, it weighed nearly 10 pounds. Charlie used it to note down his thoughts and experiences, to write articles for publication and letters to his family, and to translate books into Braille. Invented in 1891 by an American named Frank Hall, it was made in Chicago by the Cooper Engineering & Manufacturing Company. It bears the first such machine to effectively enable blind individuals to write to each other (and to sighted Braille-literate people) without assistance, and it was the brailler of choice for decades.

The Banks Pocket Brailler was invented in 1928 by Alfred Banks, a physician and Lions Club member blinded in WWI. Less practical for lengthy work than a regular brailler - it types only on half-inch tape – it has the advantages of being highly portable, measuring seven by four-and-a-half inches and weighing just two-and-a-half pounds. In 1952, at the request of the Lions Club, IBM manufactured a thousand of these braillers, including Charlie’s, free of charge, primarily for distribution to blinded veterans of WWII.

Charlie’s Communications Equipment

This Tallatouch machine was Charlie’s communicator. People who didn’t know the manual alphabet could type a message on the keyboard while he rested a finger on the Braille “cell.” Located at the back, the cell is a metal plate the size of a fingertip, with six tiny holes corresponding to the Braille letter format. As each letter is typed, pins poke through the holes to form that letter in Braille. Intriguingly, the keys on Charlie’s communicator are in alphabetical order, not qwerty. An extra row across the bottom has the keys specific to braillers, so a blind person can also use the communicator.

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If you are a student, staff, faculty or alumni at the University of British Columbia, there is a special opportunity available to you at Academy. Polygon’s newest collection of high-rise apartment residences. Discover exclusive savings just for you on one-bedroom plus den and two-bedroom homes. An intelligent choice in every respect.
Dollars and Sex

Marina Adshade, Ph.D.
Harper Collins
257 pages

In Dollars and Sex, UBC economics professor Marina Adshade tells fictional, empirical and theoretical stories that illustrate economic principles. While economists like Adam Smith and John Maynard Keynes are decidedly absent, Micah Jagger and Max West appear to introduce concepts such as market limits and the institution of marriage.

Adshade suggests that the “Justin Bieber Effect” explains how the use of oral contraceptives has changed women’s preferences for a mate. She tackles topics such as what drives 66 per cent of black women are single and looks at how much the cost of an alcoholic beverage needs to be increased in order to reduce risky sexual behaviour. By the end of the book, a riveting romp of a read, it is difficult to deny that “almost every option, decision and outcome in matters of sex and love is better understood by thinking in an economic framework.”

This approach stems from Freakonomics, a 2005 best-selling book by economist Steven Levitt and New York Times journalist Stephen J. Dubner. Freakonomics revolutionized the dry perception of economic theory by using it to understand topics such as how much the legalization of abortion affected the rate of violent crime in the US. Two books later, the Freakonomics Radio continues to analyze topics such as whether or not expensive wines taste better or how much the US president really matters.

Similarly, Adshade uses concepts such as bargaining power, extensive and intensive margins and Pareto efficiency to understand love and the libido.

The research that provides the foundations for Adshade’s economic analysis is far reaching with studies from Uganda, the Netherlands, India, Sweden and France. But what makes all the information palatable is Adshade’s ability to weight off her cut with her voice figures strongly. Not only does Adshade write well, she circles back on these themes the way a good professor does during lectures to delve into a course. Indeed the idea for the book came from students in Adshade’s undergraduate course at UBC, The Economics of Sex and Love, first offered in 2008.

While Adshade uses microeconomic studies, which seek to explain the behaviour of individuals, in the end, her argument is that macroeconomics, which is the behaviour of everyone in the economy, collectively, is what really influences the way we approach our own love lives. Not only is it hard to disagree with her, it is fun going along for the ride.

Standing Up with GA’AXSTA’LAS

Jone Constance and the Politics of Memory, Church and Custom

Leslie A. Robertson and the KWAGUTXU’KSM CLAN

596 pages

Standing Up with GA’AXSTA’LAS is the life story of Jone Constance Cook, a high-ranking Namgis woman from Alert Bay, BC, who lived from 1870 to 1951. Cook, whose traditional name is GA’AXSTA’LAS, appears in numerous scholarly studies and much contemporary literature about colonial history in Kwak’ala territories. In these representations, the dominant impression of Cook is unfavourable. Among other things, Cook is most remembered for her unorthodox stand against the potlatch, a traditional First Nations ceremony banned by the colonial government in 1885. It is GA’AXSTA’LAS stand against the potlatch that provides the impetus for this “collaborative ethnography” by Leslie A. Robertson (a UBC assistant professor of Anthropology) and the KWAGUTXU’KSM CLAN.

Standing Up with GA’AXSTA’LAS took 10 years to write and incorporates extensive archival research, oral history and family recordings. The purpose of the book, termed affectionately throughout as the “Grammy Cook book,” is to place Cook’s vocal and cultural support for the potlatch ban within the complex political context of its time. The book holds a mirror up to the colonial history that Cook’s life encompasses and the family stories, which thread through, reveal how “memory is embedded in genealogical knowledge.”

GA’AXSTA’LAS existed in both the colonial and Indian world simultaneously. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, midwife, political activist, translator, and interpreter who served as the president of the Anglican Women’s Auxiliary for more than 30 years. An open document, Constance’s work is inspired in part by thinking in an economics framework.

The exhaustible resource here, in combination with family reflection, reveals the story of a strong and enduring rock that guided much of Cook’s personal and political life. According to Cook’s ancestor William Wasden Jr., “what a lot of our people are in denial about is what the banks and everyone else do to we.” Standing Up with GA’AXSTA’LAS answers those questions.
Time to go Exploring!

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When she is not out exploring to find your next great adventure, you can fi nd her at the alumni UBC office at Cecil Green Park House. You can also contact any of our travel partners directly for more information:

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  - Ancient Kingdoms of China: May
  - Great Journey through Europe (Switzerland, Rhine River, Amsterdam): June - July
  - Iceland and Greenland: August
  - Trade routes of Coatal Iberia: Barcelona-Lisbon: All Canadian - October
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      - Asian Explorations: East Asia: February-March
      - Historic Reflections: Barcelona to Athens: April - May and October
      - Mediterranean Classics: Barcelona to Venice: May - June
      - Best of British Isles: July-August
      - Baltic Treasures: Denmark to Venice: August - September
      - Black Sea Sovereign: Turkey to Greece: September-October

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  - Apollo, Italy: May
  - Sorrento, Italy: September-October

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  - Alumni UBC: February

- **Tour Destinations**
  - Azamara Quest – travel
  - Alumni UBC: June
  - Alumni UBC: February
  - Alumni UBC: January - June
  - Azamara Quest – travel
  - Alumni UBC: March
  - Alumni UBC: February

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- **Tour Destinations**
  - Best of British Isles: February- March
  - Italian Treasures: Sorrento, Italy: June

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Congratulations! In 2012 You Made a Billion Dollar Impact

We have now completed the second public year of UBC’s start an evolution campaign and I have been overwhelmed by the scale and scope of the support we have received from you – our alumni, donors and friends. In the year ending March 31, 2013, you have given over $213 million, putting us over the $1 billion milestone – well on the way to our campaign goal of $1.5 billion. I encourage you on this historic achievement which means that we can do so much more for our students, researchers and communities.

We are also well on the way to achieving our goal of involving 50,000 alumni annually in the life of the university by 2015. On any measure it has been a terrific year and I thank you for your whole-hearted support.

This year we are sharing a report on both giving and receiving, as your support is not just measured in numbers, but in impact. Your gifts go towards providing powerful opportunities for real change in the university and beyond.

Most of these stories are about individuals, and how their lives have been affected by the work we do at UBC. But more than that, they’re about communities: how our community of donors has joined with us to build a better future here in British Columbia and around the world.

Congratulations again and thank you for your continuing support of UBC.

Stephen J. Toope
President and Vice-Chancellor
The University of British Columbia

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PRAISES AND PRIZES

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL RECIPIENTS:

Griffith Lloyd, BMus’97, he received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal on October 9, 2012. Eight days later he was inducted into the Alberta Order of Excellence (AOE) – the highest award that the province can bestow upon its citizens for meritorious service. • Hilarie Yates Clark, BMus’52, MEd’90, received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for her volunteer work. Hilary initiated the relaying program at Capilano College/University, was elected to the board of Lions Gate Hospital, rising to become the first female board chair, and followed that by being elected the provincial representative on the board of the BC Health Association. Upon retirement she founded the Ambrosia Orchestra of West Vancouver, which she managed for 20 years and in which she continues to play flute. She initiated the free Carnegie Centre band/orchestra series for residents of the Downtown Eastside and also series opera revives for amateur and semi-professional productions, promoting the rising opera singers and companies in BC. She volunteers for West Vancouver’s Community Day and Harmony Arts Festival. Hilary has three married sons and six grandchildren. • Wally P Lightbody, BMus’54, LLB’78, was awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medal in recognition of his contributions to Canada. In 2010 he was awarded the George Maynor Medal for distinguished service to the legal profession of BC. He is a former president of the Canadian Bar Association (BC Branch) and the University of British Columbia Law Society and many national and international organizations. • Heather Pawsey, BMus’97, MEd’90, was elected to the AOE for her volunteerism. She is a past president of the Canadian Federation of University Women’s (BC Branch) and has chaired numerous committees establishing prizes and scholarships in law, including the class of 1959 UBC Faculty of Law Scholarship Fund and the Okanagan Bar Scholarship awarded to a UBC Okanagan graduate accepted into UBC law school. She also spearheaded the establishment of a course in contemporary Canadian Law at UBC Okanagan. She is the past chair and founder of the yearly Gavel Debate at the UBC Faculty of Law, president of the Friends and Residents of the Abbott Street Heritage Conservation Area Society in Kelowna, and the Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) Foundation Annual Celebrity Tennis and Bocce Tournament – an event that has raised substantial funds for cardiac rehab at KGH. At a ceremony on December 6, 2012, Dr. Pulilikatchi Charmo Simon, MS’10, was awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for his services to the community and on March 12, 2013, he celebrated his 100th birthday. Clyde Griffin, BMus’64, was presented with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal on December 13, 2012. The medal was awarded in honor of Clyde’s impressive Municipal and Provincial Government career, together with the amazing community services he provided over the years. • Lyall D. Knott, Q.C., L’07, R’72, was awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal on January 22, 2013. • Joy Ferar, BMus’72, was presented with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal on December 13, 2012, for his 30-plus years of public service as a CAO for local government. In 1982, at the age of 29, Grant was the youngest municipal CAO in British Columbia and has since served as CAO for a number of municipalities and as CFO for the Delta School District. He has served on the board of directors of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and was elected vice-president of the International City and County Managers association representing over 5,000 members worldwide. • UBC’s Alumni Association was awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for its 100 years of service to alumni. The association has grown from 1,000 members in the first year to over 20,000 today. In recognition of its role in community building and philanthropy, the Alumni Association’s 2008 honorary life membership was presented jointly to the Duke of Edinburgh and the Governor General. The association has been awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for its 100 years of service to alumni. • Linda Rabeneck, BS’81, MSc’93, was elected, in recognition of her volunteer work, to the CAHPS (Canadian Academy of Health Sciences) Board of Directors. Fellowes elected to the CAHPS are recognized for their contributions to the promotion of health science and have demonstrated leadership, creativity, distinctive competencies, and a commitment to advance academic health science in Canada. • Dr. Rabeneck is a professor of medicine and professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, and sensor scientist at the institute for clinical cancer sciences in Toronto. She currently serves as vice president, Prevention and Cancer Control at Cancer Care Ontario, the province’s cancer agency. She has played a leadership role in implementing organized colorectal cancer screening in Ontario. • Douglas W. Conn, BMus’83, BS’79, DMD’92, was elected president of the Canadian Academy of Endodontists (CAE) at the CAE annual meeting held on October 19, 2012. He is a specialist in Endodontics and chair of the Department of Endodontics at the University of British Columbia. • The Honourable Lyall D. Knott, Q.C., R’72, was elected to the board of directors of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and was elected vice-president of the International City and County Managers Association representing over 5,000 members worldwide. • UBC’s Alumni Association was awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for its 100 years of service to alumni. The association has grown from 1,000 members in the first year to over 20,000 today. In recognition of its role in community building and philanthropy, the Alumni Association’s 2008 honorary life membership was presented jointly to the Duke of Edinburgh and the Governor General. The association has been awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for its 100 years of service to alumni. • The Honourable Lyall D. 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nominated for the six awards. Paige founded and operates North Shore Sports Medicine, which has grown from a single two-bed facility in 1987 to three clinics with 20 beds and 53 medical practitioners. In 2010, she was named Businessperson of the Year by the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce. • Deb debruijn, MSc'95, was recently appointed university secretary at Trent University, Peterborough, ON, serving as the university’s most senior advisor on governance-related and administrative matters, with responsibility for providing leadership and support for Trent’s governing bodies and for the senior administration. Deb previously served as the executive director for the Canadian Research Knowledge Network in Ottawa. • Russ Brown, BFA'87, has been appointed a Justice of the Court of Queen’s Bench of Alberta. His and Heidi Brown (née Rawluk), BSc'89, live in Edmonton with their two sons. • Aynna Kheng, BCom'95, has been appointed to the position of assistant director, Financial Accounting, at JTB International (Canada) Ltd. Aynna has been with JTB since 1994 and previously held the position of manager. • The US Green Building Council announced Brenda Martos, BSc'95, to the 2012 class of LEED Fellows. The LEED Fellow designation recognizes exceptional contributions to green building and significant professional experience. Brenda was one of only two Canadians named among 43 of the world’s most distinguished green building professionals selected. Her work experience encompasses residential, institutional, commercial and industrial projects throughout BC, including the Vancouver and Whistler Athletes’ Villages, the Okanagan College Centre of Excellence (a Living Building Challenge candidate), and over 20 BC projects across the province. • Suboth Vorma, MSc'91, PhD'97, is the recipient of 2013 Royal College Medal Award in Surgery. Presented annually to one Canadian surgeon, this award recognizes both Dr. Vorma’s clinical achievements and groundbreaking research. After completing an MSc and PhD in cardiovascular pharmacology in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Suboh went on to attend medical school at the University of Calgary. Currently, Suboh is a cardiac surgeon and researcher at St. Michael’s Hospital and a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. His most recent research work has connected two previously unlinked findings: childhood obesity and heart disease. • The novel What Happened to Sammy by SJ Collins, MSc'95, has won the inaugural Monica Hughes Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy. Administered by the Canadian Children’s Book Centre, the award honours excellence in science fiction and fantasy writing for children and adolescents with a $5,000 prize. “It was a wonderful and completely unexpected surprise,” remarked Sarah. “Monica Hughes was part of what some historians term, the Greatest Generation those who fought oppression and survived World War II. I admire and aspire to many of her ideals and it is a huge honour to have my name in the same sentence as hers. I hope the creation of this award properly elevates to pride to her family and encourages a new generation of readers to explore the new worlds she created.” • Jill MacAlpine, PhD'95, was elected partner for Fireman’s Fund, the largest insurer in the world. Jill practices all areas of patent law including patent litigation, patent procurement, due diligence investigations, opinion work and client counselling, primarily in the chemical and pharmaceutical areas. • Genevieve Barron, BFA'79, has been selected as one of 39 new Gates Cambridge Scholars to study at the University of Cambridge, England, this fall and will pursue a master’s degree in education. She has taught in Malawi and is currently teaching, writing, and editing in Shanghai. She is the eighth UBC student or alumna to be awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship since the program began in 2001. Quick Catch-up Hugh Stephens, BVC'87, is executive in-residence at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, and is teaching part-time at Royal Roads University after retiring this year from a second career as an executive with US media conglomerate Time Warner. Hugh is based in Singapore. In 2011, Hugh spent 10 weeks in Myanmar visiting the UN Department of Foreign Affairs, where he served as assistant deputy minister for Policy and Communications. • The summer of 2012 marked two milestones in Raymond To, BSc'87, MBA'97, business life: one was the 10 year anniversary of GO Recruitment and the other was the 20 year anniversary of being in the recruiting business. • Iana Messetchkova, BSc'87, is currently interfering with the European Union Delegation to the UN in New York. She works within the Third Committee, assisting the delegation in the drafting of statements, communication with Brussels and in negotiations. She plans to attend New York University in the fall for an MS in Global Affairs. Page/Stage/Screen Louise Moon, BFA'91, original play, Raven Meets the Monkey King, produced by Axis Theatre Company, toured BC and Saskatchewan elementary schools in the spring of 2013. The play features First Nations and Asian storytelling with themes of intercultural cooperation and the importance of retaining treasures of historical and spiritual importance to their original owners. • Ken Macleod, MBA'68, Secretary-Treasurer Certificate '72, recently completed a large in-depth study on Vancouver. His 850-page book, The Story of South Vancouver and John Oliver High School, is based on more than 200 interviews, includes 600 photographs, took 12 years to complete and is an exhaustive study of the former Municipality of South Vancouver, which amalgamated with the City of Vancouver in 1929. The book includes history about the area from the early 1860s, and is told largely through the eyes of the people as gathered from interviews, the Vancouver Archives, old newspaper accounts, new sources, and unpublished accounts. The book was released for the 100th Anniversary of John Oliver High School in September 2012. • Ruth Donald (née Biga), BSc'67, is author of a mystery series featuring a former RCMP homicide detective who resigned from the force to live in a long term hotel. Ruth wanted to write what she describes as “a true North ‘whodunit’ mysteries with a uniquely North American setting, and published the first Highway Mystery, Slow Curve on the Lepidochas in 2011. That was followed by see on the Gingerbread, which was an Alist for the 2013 Global Ebook Award in mystery fiction, and her new release, see on the Sisyphus. She’s working on the fourth Highway Mystery, set in the ‘Yukon. Ruth worked in the transportation industry in various capacities from 1972-2002. Writing as R. E. Donald, she uses her own experience and that of her late husband, Jim Donald, who was well known in the BC trucking industry in the 70s and 80s, to create realistic characters and situations in the novels. Ruth is a member of Crime Writers of Canada. She currently lives on a farm in south Langley with a French Canadian cowboy and several horses. • Kate Braid, MFA'97, recently released a memoir of her 15 years as a carpenter, Journeywoman: Swinging a Hammer in a Man’s World. Kate has written poetry and non-fiction about subjects ranging from Glenn Gould and Emily Carr to mine workers and fishes and has published five books of prose-poetry/writing/including, Inward to the Bones and A Well-Mannered Storm: The Glenn Gould Poems. Congratulations to Mark Kunzli, BSc'87, MBA'91, and his McGill classmates, Mohammed Ashour, Gabriel Mott, Shobhita Soor, and Jessie Pearlman, have won the Boston Regional Final of the 2013 Hult Prize for their business plan to breed crickets as a viable food-source for the 200 million people globally who live in urban slums. The Hult Prize, in partnership with the Clinton Global Initiative, is a start-up accelerator for social entrepreneurs, dedicated to solving the planet’s most pressing issues. This year’s winners received $1,000,000 to launch their social ventures. The team is trying to formalize a practice that currently exists worldwide. Crickets, an excellent source of protein, iron, B-vitamins, and other essential nutrients, are currently eaten by approximately 2.5 billion people. However, there isn’t a formal practice in place – crickets are typically not grown commercially. Consequently, the team’s challenge was to create a strategy that is both sustainable and reliable. The team developed three interconnected products: packaged cricket-based protein bars for those who are squeamish about eating bugs; and, a bioplastic extracted from cricket shells that can be sold for industrial purposes. Lea, the lead food scientist on the team, has eaten his fair share of crickets recently, and says that it’s not the taste that’s the distinctive part, but the texture, describing it as “sort of a cross between pork and protein.” In the fall, the team will compete against four other regional finalists for the chance to win $1 million in start-up capital to launch their new social enterprise. One iPad, Two Players. January 31 was a big day for computer science alumnus Chris Gregg, BSc'84, and business and computer science student Michael Silverwood – the day their iPad game, Tristophore, Multiplayer Defense, was launched on the Apple App Store and featured as one of the games of the day. “I love being able to play this game with a friend and I love that it can be played by more than one player, it also features a single-player opponent,” says Chris. “Although the game was designed for more than one player, it also features a single-player opponent. A lot of people who miss the experience of physically sitting around a board game and playing with people in the same room,” says Chris. “I really like that it was made by only two people, which really shows that its was a work of love. Rating: 8/10.” – Shawn Hatters, Review on the App Store
BIG BLOCK AWARD WINNERS

MAY BROWN TROPHY – graduating female athlete of the year:
Shanice Marcelle (volleyball)
MARILYN POMFRET TROPHY – female athlete of the year:
Kris Young (basketball)
BOBBY GAUL MEMORIAL TROPHY – graduating male athlete of the year:
Morgan Morgan (football)
THUNDERBIRD ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – female: Hannah Haughn (field hockey)
THUNDERBIRD ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – male: Neil Manning (co-oxide)
DU VINET TEAM OF THE YEAR – women’s ice hockey
RAY BAKKERLEY AWARD – service to women’s athletics: John Foster
CAROLYN DOBE-SMITH AWARD – trainer: Mark Artlo (baseball)
ARTHUR W. DELAMONT AWARD – school spirit: Alexandra Leake (women’s tennis; Elizabeth Thiel (athletics))
BUZZ MOORE THUNDERBIRD ATHLETIC COUNCIL LEADERSHIP AWARD: Evan Cheng (men’s hockey), Robert Bagella (volleyball), Guguan Chen (soccer)
THUNDERBIRD ATHLETIC COUNCIL PERFORMANCE AWARD: Kelly Apsinall (men’s swimming)

REMEMBERING

Herm Frydland, a UBC law graduate and public relations manager for Frank Fredrickson who coached UBC Thunderbirds hockey team in the late 1940s, passed away on December 4, 2012. At the insistence of team members, including all-time UBC greats Drake Blake, Hass Young, Don Adams and Bob Koch, Herm was inducted into the UBC Sports Hall of Fame in 2000 along with his lifetime friends who comprised UBC’s 1949 and 1950 Hamber Cup Champion squad.

It was back in 1996 that Amarnjot Payer (née Olliton) politely pointed out that Marilyn Pomfret (1977-78) women’s volleyball team had perhaps been overlooked for induction into the UBC Sports Hall of Fame. After reviewing the data, the 1998 selection committee promptly agreed with the former manager of the team that won back-to-back national championships in 1977 and 1978. The aptly self-named “UBC Thunderbird Volleyball Sisters” were among the vast numbers of friends and admirers who were deeply saddened by the loss of Amarnjot on February 2.

A few years before Alfred Snow played varsity soccer and became the first Aboriginal person to graduate from the UBC Faculty of Law, he participated in an important moment in Thunderbird history. Clad in traditional ceremonial dress, he took part in a formal presentation at half-time of the 1948 UBC Homecoming football game, during which his father, Kwicksutaineuk Chief William Scow, dedicated a Thunderbird totem to football game, during which his father, Kwicksutaineuk Chief William Scow, dedicated a Thunderbird totem to the Order of Canada in 1990. He passed away on December 4, 2012.

One suspects that 1994 UBC Sports Hall of Fame inductee Basil Robinson also learned an important lesson on two occasions in his years as an extraordinary rugby, soccer and cricket player on Point Grey from 1938 to 1946, which culminated in a Rhodes Scholarship. After serving his country as an intelligence officer in WWII, he at last took advantage of the scholarship in 1946 and shipped off to Oxford, where, among other things, he became the first Canadian to be awarded the coveted Oxford “blue” for cricket. Honoured as an Officer of the Order of Canada for a lifetime of distinguished diplomatic services, he remained a resident of Ottawa until his passing on December 21, 2012.


Currently spotting yellow-rumped warblers in south-east BC forests, the Heses were passionate bird watchers and enthusiastic conservationists. Inspired by their commitment, I am studying birds to understand which habitats are most important to conserve. Thanks to Werner and Hildegard Hesse’s legacy I have been able to fully focus on my research for 3 years and, in so doing, help provide solutions to environmental problems. Thank you Werner and Hildegard—your passion allowed me to do the research I love and continue an important tradition of outreach between academia, policy makers and the public.

— Richard Schuster, PhD candidate
Basil H. Robinson,
[BA'35, MA'39]

Born in Vancouver, Laurence E. "Bud" Macin of Austin, Texas, died peacefully in the home of his son in Chile, Vermont, on August 24, 2012. He was 97 years old.

Bud received his BA in statistics following a BASc in chemical engineering. After graduation, he worked for a limestone company on Texada Island. However, after his first day of work, Bud decided that starting a career at BASCO’s new refinery and quickly rose to the position of chief refinery inspector, then to manager of transportation, refinery maintenance and construction. In 1956 he transferred to Caltex Australia as manager of maintenance. In 1959 he transferred to Caltex Mediterranean Ltd., and was later promoted to president of Caltex Mediterranean Ltd., and was later promoted to president of Caltex Europe. In 1966 he was named the assistant general manager of the newly formed Caltex Mediterranean Ltd., and was later promoted to president of Caltex Europe. In 1966 he was named the assistant general manager of the newly formed Caltex Mediterranean Ltd., and was later promoted to president of Caltex Europe. 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August 30, 1919 – February 23, 2011. Alan was born in Victoria, BC, to Edward and Dorothea Little, and grew up on a farm near the Hall Peninsula. He attended public school and, after serving in the Navy during WWII, he attended UBC and received a degree in plant science. After graduation, he worked for several years on fisheries and environmental issues.

After the war, he attended UBC, studying plant science with emphasis to work for several years on fisheries and environmental issues.

In 1949 to 1981 he was employed by the Employment Department of National Defence at naval headquarters in Vancouver as coordinator of fisheries and animal husbandry.

In 1981 he joined the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, and later as supervising horticulturist for the entire coastal region. He retired in 1989, at which time of his retirement, he was a life member of the BC Horticultural Society. 

In the 1950s, he served as the first executive director of the Canadian Wildlife Federation. He was a member of the National Executive of the Canadian Wildlife Federation, and served as president from 1974 to 1976.

In 1976, he co-founded the International Society for the Study of Birds of Prey, and served as its first president. He was also a member of the International Council for Bird Preservation, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the International Ecological Society.

He was a member of the board of directors of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and served as its president from 1988 to 1990. He was also a member of the International Council for Bird Preservation, and served as its president from 1988 to 1990.

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In 1990, he was awarded the Order of Canada, and in 1991, he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In 1992, he was awarded the Royal Society of Canada's Gold Medal for his contributions to the field of ornithology.

He was predeceased by his wife, Dorothea, and their daughter, Patricia. He is survived by his children, Edward, Dorothea, and Michael, and his grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

KINGHORN NELSON SLESSOR, BSc’60, PhD’64

Keith Norman Slessor was born in Comox, BC, in 1920, and his battle with mantle cell lymphoma on July 18, 2012, after receiving his PhD.

Keith taught for two years post-doctoral study in London, UK, and subsequently before returning to Canada as a faculty member at the newly founded Simon Fraser University.

Keith’s 39 year career as a professor of chemistry at SFU was devoted to his twin passions of teaching and scientific research. He was recognized for his excellence in both areas, being awarded the SFU Excellence in Teaching Award (1995) for having conveyed the principles of organic chemistry to thousands of SFU undergraduates.

He also developed and taught Science and its Impact on Society, a course about science for undergraduates in the social sciences and humanities. He, along with Mark Stiles, won the BC Science and Engineering Gold Medal in Natural Sciences (2003) for deciphering the biochemical mechanisms in honeybee colonies. Of the many awards he received, these were the two that he was most proud. At the national level, Keith participated in several NERC adjudication committees and in the development of new interdisciplinary programs. He gave unselfishly of his time to teaching, mentoring, research and community.

Keith was also an ardent fly fisherman, and he and his wife Marie spent decades pursuing Klamath trout in the interior lakes of BC. In his retirement, he channeled his energy into fly woodworking and created many pieces that now grace homes, kitchens, and diners around the world.

He leaves his wife of 52 years, Marie, BSc’62, and children Mike, BSc’64 (Enn); son John (Tanya), BArch’63; and four grandchildren: Kai, Kobe, Nicola and Cameron.

REMEMBRANCE

“BARB LITTLE

Barbara Little passed away peacefully in the presence of family on October 29, 2011.

Barbara was a devoted wife and mother, and a cherished member of the SFU community.

She is survived by her husband, John Makuch, and their daughter, Rebecca.

Barbara will be missed by all who knew her, and our thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time.

Barbara was a valued member of the SFU community, and her contributions to the university and the wider community will be deeply missed.

We extend our deepest condolences to John and Rebecca, and to all who knew and loved Barbara.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

The SFU Community

In memory of Barbara Little

November 1, 2011

Published in The SFU News

Published in The SFU News
Dick played soccer and field hockey into his adult years, and was an avid rock climber and mountaineer. He traversed Mt.Victoria in the Canadian Rockies and attempted to summit Mt. Waddington. He got his pilot’s license in his 20s, later building and flying a small two-seater Seafarer from BC to Ontario. Dick was an excellent folk-dancer with a particular fondness for Israel and an avowed environmentalist – both of which he taught. He once grazed Vancouver’s Queen Elizabeth Theatre stage dancing as a Bulgarian and sung in numerous choirs, both large and small. He retired to Salt Spring Island in 1999 where woodworking, travel and volunteering filled many day.

Over the years, Dick’s thoughtful and inquisitive mind led him to think deeply about world events and a lifelong opposition to racism, war, and social inequality. He cared about other people and the world we live in, and did what he could to better it.

On August 2, 2012, Dick died of gastric cancer at Salt Spring’s Lady Minto Hospital. He was 85 years old. His parents, Ruth and Ken Gibb, his sisters, Joy, Don and Bill; his brothers, Bert and Wally; and his brother-in-law, Dr. John Gibb, are survived by his loving wife, Sue, their children, Bruce, Ian, Michele, and Derek; and his sisters-in-law, Joy, Don and Bill.

Jeanette TSAI-YING FLORENCE, BSc ’75

Jeanette died August 24, 2012, in Edmonton after a strenuous one-year battle with cancer. Jeanette was born in Beijing, China, in 1943, educated in Vancouver, and then moved to Edmonton to undertake a passionate nursing career that spanned over 40 years. Most recently, she was a nursing educator at Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton. She is still “Mrs. Florence” in the many nurses’ classes and workshops she has taught over the years. Jeanette made significant contributions to the Edmonton branch of the UBC Alumni Association. She is survived by her husband, Wayne, daughter, Michelle, and two cherished grandchildren.

VICKI GIBB, BSc ’72

Born September 27, 1950, Vicki passed away in St. Michael’s Hospice on October 19, 2012, after a five-year battle with breast cancer. She is survived by her husband, Richard Hollins, daughter, Sophie Hollins, and brothers, Harry Gibb. She is predeceased by her mother, Gertie, father, Jim, and brothers, Bert and Wally.

Vicki was born in Kelowna, grew up in Okanagan and Kelowna, and studied chemistry at UBC, gaining an honours degree in 1971. She graduated from the University of Toronto in Medicine in 1981, and later as conductor of the UBC Choral Union in the 1990s. More recently, she started with one of Canada’s leading literary magazines: Prism International. Several years later, he and Birney formed Canada’s first Creative Writing Department. Dick was an example of excellent short stories and plays, including the critically hailed short story short story, The Prince. As a professor and editor, he helped several generations of writers, including the family’s lifelong friend and renowned author Wayson Choy. When Jake retired from UBC in 1989 after 33 years, a scholarship for fledgling screenwriters was endowed in his name. Jake’s other great passions were for politics and sports. He was a champion of social justice and the underdog. He was an active and excellent tennis player – a fixture at the Jericho Tennis Club, and a Canadian Doubles Champion.

Jake took greatest satisfaction in his family, always believing that “my children are my greatest work of art.” He derived no small measure of joy from his grandchildren and cared very much for his family. He was a mensch in every way. Donations may be made to the Jacob Zilber scholarship at UBC’s Creative Writing Department http://memorialsupporting.ubc.ca/ in "Memoriam: first name, last name, class year" in the subject line, or mail to: UBC Alumni Association 625 Cecil Green Park Road Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

Obituaries should be 300 words or less (submissions may be edited for length and clarity where necessary). Mail original photos or email high resolution images – preferably 300 dpi.
Who was your childhood hero? I think the closest thing I had to a hero was my dad, who was actually a pro at UBC for a long time. Before Wikipedia existed, he knew all the answers. He was never afraid to say “I don’t know,” but he rarely needed to.

What was the last thing you read? The Dunk & Egg novellas from George R. R. Martin. They’re every bit as amazing as the main Song of Ice and Fire series.

What or who makes you laugh out loud? Spooky-eyed horses get me right in the funny bone for some reason.

What’s the most important lesson you ever learned? Listen! (It’s so much easier said than done. I’m still working on it.)

What’s your idea of the perfect day? I’m lying in bed watching hockey and eating bacon. Suddenly, I get a phone call offering me a role in a move that shoots in Europe. (Thank Coombs recently landed a role in the CW’s drama pilot, Reign, and is currently in Dublin, Ireland.)

What was your nickname at school? I’ve got one friend who calls me Mommy. I call him Daddy. Maybe one day we’ll invite children into the fold.

What would be the title of your biography? Pretty Eyes and Dumb Luck.

If a genie granted you one wish, what would it be? To make a first-world lifestyle sustainable for the entire planet in perpetuity. Or maybe just open an In-N-Out Burger in Canada.

What item have you owned for the longest time? An old joke book. Sample joke: What is the difference between a running man and a running dog? The man wears trousers and the dog pants!

What is your latest purchase? A pair of combat boots from a military surplus store. They give me a decidedly manly gait when I walk.

Whom do you most admire (living or dead) and why? Anyone who is unafraid to be themselves. Maybe it’s because I’m an actor, but I have a lot of trouble trying not to be someone else.

What would you like your epitaph to say? I don’t know, but I rarely need one.

If you could invent something, what would it be? A teleporter. Air travel is such an inefficient way to see the world, in which era would you most like to have lived, and why? I’m pretty happy in this one. I don’t know if I’d have survived in any other.


Name the skill or talent you would most like to have. The ability to make anybody happy.

Which pieces of music would you take to that desert island?心爱的音乐家——Joy Division – “Love will tear you apart”.

Which famous person (living or dead) do you think (or have you been told) you most resemble? Maybe one day we’ll invite children into the fold.

Which three pieces of music would most like to have in your life? The ability to make anybody happy.

What is your pet peeve? Flagrantly bad grammar.

What are some of your UBC highlights? The plays I was involved in while I was in the theatre program, and the people I got to know. UBC Improv. A few messy nights at the Pit.

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Name the skill or talent you would most like to have. The ability to make anybody happy.

Which pieces of music would you take to that desert island?心爱的音乐家——Joy Division – “Love will tear you apart”.

Which famous person (living or dead) do you think (or have you been told) you most resemble? Maybe one day we’ll invite children into the fold.

Which three pieces of music would most like to have in your life? The ability to make anybody happy.

What is your pet peeve? Flagrantly bad grammar.

What are some of your UBC highlights? The plays I was involved in while I was in the theatre program, and the people I got to know. UBC Improv. A few messy nights at the Pit.
At UBC, Dr. Kishor Wasan and his team developed a cure for the neglected global disease Leishmaniasis. There are many opportunities at the University of British Columbia to donate, connect or get involved with almost any issue. To support thinking that can change the world, visit startanevolution.ca